1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1o,

Sociological Background

LABOR RELATIONS AND ORGANIZATION

466 [468] During Estonian independence relations between employer and employee were on the whole peaceful, and no large-scale strikes occurred. Although salaries were low, the cost of living was correspondingly low. The chief sources of friction were wages and working conditions. On the whole, the ministry of Labor and Welfare did a great deal to improve working conditions, passing several labor laws aimed at the protection of the workers, and sending Labor Inspectors to the various industries to see that the laws were carried out.

467 There were no trade unions in czarist Russia, so that Estonia in the independence period lacked experience in handling them, and the Communists,